



General Assembly

January Session, 2003

Committee Bill No. 6118

LCO No. 4206

Referred to Committee on Select Committee on Children

Introduced by:
(KID)

**AN ACT CONCERNING PLACEMENT OF CHILDREN COMMITTED TO
THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General
Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 17a-110 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2003*):

3 (a) As used in this section, "child" means a person under the age of
4 eighteen years; "foster child" means a child placed temporarily in a
5 home, pending permanent placement; "permanent home" means a
6 home for a child with the child's genetic or adoptive parents
7 considered to be such child's permanent residence; and "permanency
8 placement services" means services that are designed and rendered for
9 the purpose of relocating a foster child with such child's legal family or
10 finding a permanent home for such child, including, but not limited to,
11 the following: (1) Treatment services for the child and the genetic
12 family; (2) preplacement planning; (3) appropriate court proceedings
13 to effect permanent placement, including, but not limited to, the
14 following: (A) Termination of parental rights; (B) revocation of
15 commitment; (C) removal or reinstatement of guardianship; (D)
16 temporary custody; (4) recruitment and screening of permanent

17 placement homes; (5) home study and evaluation of permanent
18 placement homes; (6) placement of children in permanent homes; (7)
19 postplacement supervision and services to such homes following
20 finalization of such placements in the courts; and (8) other services
21 routinely performed by caseworkers doing similar work in the
22 Department of Children and Families.

23 (b) At a hearing held in accordance with subsection (k) of section
24 46b-129 and section 17a-111b, the court shall determine the
25 appropriateness of continuing efforts to reunify a child with the child's
26 family. If the court finds that such efforts are not appropriate, the
27 Department of Children and Families shall within sixty days of such
28 finding either (1) file a petition for the termination of parental rights,
29 (2) file a motion to revoke the commitment and vest the custody and
30 guardianship of the child on a permanent or long-term basis in an
31 appropriate individual or couple, or (3) file a written permanency plan
32 with the court for permanent or long-term foster care, which plan shall
33 include an explanation of the reason that neither termination of
34 parental rights nor custody and guardianship is appropriate for the
35 child. The court shall promptly convene a hearing for the purpose of
36 reviewing such written plan. Reasonable efforts shall be made to place
37 the child in a residential setting designed to meet the child's needs
38 until such time as a permanent home is found or the child is adopted.
39 If the permanency plan calls for placing the child for adoption or in
40 some other permanent home, good faith efforts shall be made to place
41 the child for adoption or in some other alternative home.

42 (c) Not later than January 1, 2000, the Department of Children and
43 Families shall adopt regulations in accordance with chapter 54 to
44 establish standards for permanency plans which shall include, but not
45 be limited to: (1) Assessment of kin, foster parents or other potential
46 adoptive parents for adopting a child; (2) preparing children for
47 adoption; (3) collaboration between family foster care services and
48 adoption services; (4) transracial and cross-racial adoption; (5) open
49 adoption; and (6) foster care and adoption subsidies.

50 (d) Not later than January 1, 2000, the Department of Children and
 51 Families shall, within available appropriations, establish and maintain
 52 (1) a central registry of all children for whom a permanency plan has
 53 been formulated and in which adoption is recommended, and (2) a
 54 system to monitor the progress in implementing the permanency plan
 55 for such children.

56 (e) Whenever the Commissioner of Children and Families deems it
 57 necessary or advisable in order to carry out the purposes of this
 58 section, the commissioner may contract with any private child-placing
 59 agency, as defined in section 45a-707, for a term of not less than three
 60 years and not more than five years, to provide any one or more
 61 permanency placement services on behalf of the Department of
 62 Children and Families. Whenever any contract is entered into under
 63 this section which requires private agencies to perform casework
 64 services, such as the preparation of applications and petitions for
 65 termination of parental rights, guardianship or other custodial matters,
 66 or which requires court appearances, the Attorney General shall
 67 provide legal services for the Commissioner of Children and Families
 68 notwithstanding that some of the services have been performed by
 69 caseworkers of private agencies, except that no such legal services shall
 70 be provided unless the Commissioner of Children and Families is a
 71 legal party to any court action hereunder.

72 (f) The Commissioner of Children and Families may accept funds
 73 from any source to implement the provisions of this section.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2003</i>

KID**Joint Favorable C/R****HS**